THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • WEDNESDAY • JULY 28, 2021 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 20 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianexpress twitter.com/newindianexpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE FORCES SIMONE BILES TO WITHDRAW

The 24-year-old four-time Olympic champion pulls out during the team final to protect the US team and self on Tuesday

WANTS TO FOCUS ON WELLBEING

Biles, widely expected to star in the Games, was in tears when she addressed the media after Russian Olympic Committee won the final. "At the end of the day, I have to do what's right for me and focus on my mental health and not jeopardise my health and my wellbeing," she said. She went backstage with a trainer but came out later to support the team

UNDECIDED FOR THURSDAY'S EVENT

- The athlete, who said she was inspired by the likes of Naomi Osaka, is yet to make a decision on taking part in Thursday's all-around individual final
- Japan Olympics face Naomi Osaka crashes out of tennis event; Carissa Moore and Italo Ferreira win gold in debut sport of surfing

1992

FIRST GOLD WON BY RUSSIA IN THIS EVENT | P15, 16

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

IT'S BOMMAI

BJP goes for legacy, Lingayat and BSY loyalist | Oath-taking ceremony to be held at 11 am today | Ashoka, Sriramulu, Karjol may become Deputy CMs

ANUSHA RAVI @ Bengaluru

THE tears he shed as he announced his resignation on Monday ensured BS Yediyurappa got his man -- Basavaraj Bommai -- the top job on Tuesday. Bommai, who joined the party in 2008, was unanimously elected as leader of the BJP Legislature Party, ensuring that he becomes the next chief minister of Karnataka.

None other than Yediyurappa proposed Bommai's name, which was later backed by Deputy Chief Minister Govind Karjol. Bommai left behind other contenders like Murugesh Nirani, Arvind Bellad and CT Ravi. Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who was sent as an observer to the legislature party meet by the BJP Parliamentary Board, announced Bommai as the next chief minister. "This is a big responsibility. Under the guidance of chief minister (sic) BS Yediyurappa, I will give a pro-people government. I will strive hard for the welfare of farmers, poor, downtrodden, labourers and backward classes. Management of Covid and floods will be my priority. I will make an honest effort to implement all the schemes announced in our budget," said Bommai soon after his election as CM-designate.

He along with senior leaders of the party, including Yediyurappa, met Governor Thawarchand Gehlot late on Tuesday evening. Bommai will take oath as chief minister at 11 am on Wednesday. A complete revamp of the cabinet is on the cards and Bommai is expected to have a new team of deputy chief ministers and ministers.

Party sources said that R Ashoka, Sriramulu and Govind Karjol could become deputy chief ministers, while the fate of other two Deputy Chief Ministers Dr CN Ashwath Narayan and Laxman Savadi hangs in the balance as new combinations to take care of regional and caste equations are being worked out.

"I am confident that you will lead Karnataka in the path of development and fulfil the aspirations of people of the State," Yediyurappa tweeted following Bommai's elevation. As Bommai spoke to the media on his plans as chief minister, Yediyurappa stood next to him outside the gates of Raj Bhavan. "It will be my priority to implement all schemes announced by our senior-most leader Yediyurappa," Bommai told reporters as Yediyurappa put his arm around Bommai's shoulders.

Bommai's elevation as chief minister is being seen as Yediyurappa having a concrete say in party affairs. Yediyurappa's preference for Bommai has been noticed time and again with the latter's appointment as Karnataka's representative to the GST Council, appointment as home minister first and then as Law and Parliamentary Affairs minister with additional responsibility.

Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai (left), who is set to be the new Chief Minister of Karnataka, addresses reporters along with outgoing CM BS Yediyurappa in Bengaluru on Tuesday | VINOD KUMAR T

THE RISE OF BOMMAI

Basavaraj Bommai was elected as BJP Legislative Party leader on July 27, to take oath as CM on July 28

He was Karnataka Home Minister from 2019, and Karnataka's ministerial representative in the GST Council from 2019

Vested with additional responsibility of Law and Parliamentary Affairs in January 2021

Served as Cabinet Minister for Water Resources between 2008 and 2013. During his term, he won a big victory in the Krishna River disputes issue and got additional water allocated for Karnataka

Third-term MLA from Shiggaon in Haveri with back-to-back victories since 2008

Served as Legislative Council member from 1997 to 2008. Was deputy opposition leader in the Council from 2000 to 2004

How BSY got his favourite man Bommai the top post

ANUSHA RAVI @ Bengaluru

TILL Monday morning, it was a tight competition between two Lingayat leaders -- Basavaraj Bommai and Murugesh Nirani -- for the post of Karnataka's next chief minister. But with outgoing chief minister BS Yediyurappa backing his favourite man in the cabinet, Bommai, for the top post, the BJP Legislature Party was quick to elect him as its leader and next CM.

Bommai's elevation is being seen as Yediyurappa getting his way with the Central leadership in finding a successor. While other aspirants made multiple trips to New Delhi to lobby for the top post with the Central leadership, Bommai stayed put in the State and even denied reports of him being a candidate. *TNIE* on July 23 had reported that Bommai was emerging as the consensus candidate. Even as Yediyurappa was putting his weight behind Bommai, the party Central leadership was considering Nirani, Arvind Bellad and CT Ravi for the top job. *TNIE* had learnt from credible sources that Bommai could be the favourite, given his experience in administration, and his proximity to Yediyurappa, central leadership and RSS representatives. P4

BUSY TUESDAY

BJP Parliamentary Board appoints observers for Legislature Party meet

BJP General Secretary, in charge of Karnataka, Arun Singh arrives in Bengaluru, meets BS Yediyurappa

Union ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Kishan Reddy arrive in Bengaluru as observers for LP meet

Pradhan and Reddy meet Yediyurappa at his residence

Bommai meets Yediyurappa at his residence

Bommai asked to visit Kumara Krupa Guesthouse to meet Pradhan and Reddy

MLAs arrive at a private hotel for LP meeting

Yediyurappa arrives with Pradhan

Yediyurappa proposes Bommai's name for CM

Deputy Chief Minister Govind Karjol backs it

Bommai unanimously elected leader of BJP Legislature Party

Country will lead Oppn, we'll follow, claims Didi

CHAI PE CHARCHA

"Congress Chairperson Sonia Gandhi has called me for a *chai pe charcha*," Mamata said. Her schedule for Wednesday is a meeting with party MPs followed by high tea with media. The meeting with Sonia is at 4.30 pm after which she will meet Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal

ADVANCE PLANNING

On the need to expedite an Opposition coalition, she said, planning has to be done in advance. "Like there is election in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Tripura. Like how it happened in Tripura with our boys and the issue of Dainik Bhaskar," she said

Opposition unity will happen naturally, automatically... The country will lead the Opposition, we are the followers

Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister, West Bengal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during their meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday | PTI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

WEST Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday exuded confidence that a united Opposition will take shape in the run up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

On her first trip to the national capital after winning the West Bengal Assembly elections, so as to catalyse early unity among Opposition parties and project herself as its natural leader, she, however, said: "Opposition unity will take shape on its own."

Fobbing off media's questions on her leading the Opposition coalition, she said, "The country will lead the Opposition, we are the followers."

Mamata's first big-ticket meeting on Tuesday was with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after which she met a few Congress leaders. She has already lined up meetings with NCP patriarch Sharad Pawar and a *'chai pe charcha'* with Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, apart from meeting her party's members of Parliament.

During the 45-minute meeting with Modi, Mamata claimed she discussed the Covid situation in West Bengal and demanded more vaccines and medicines for the state.

"I had asked for an appointment from the PM... This was a courtesy visit. Post election, following the protocol we have to meet the PM once. But I also spoke about the Covid situation. I asked him to ensure that West Bengal gets enough vaccine doses. I am not against giving vaccines to other states, but considering the population of Bengal, we need more doses," she later told the media.

She also raised the pending issue of change of name of the state, to which the prime minister said 'he will see', Mamata later informed.

While Mamata parried questions on raising the Pegasus snoopgate with Modi, she demanded that the prime minister convene an all-party meet to discuss the issue, which has paralysed Parliament. She also sought a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the spyware, though a day earlier she set up a probe panel led by retired SC judge Madan Lokur into it.

The Congress leader she met were Kamal Nath, Anand Sharma and Abhishek Singhvi. Nath claimed he had called on her to congratulate her for her poll victory.

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

July 26 **57,48,692 doses**

July 27 **36,87,239 doses**

TOTAL: 44,58,39,699

NATIONWIDE	JULY 26	JULY 27
Fresh cases	39,361	26,689
Recoveries	35,968	42,363
Deaths	416	415

KARNATAKA	JULY 26	JULY 27
Fresh cases	1,606	1,501
Recoveries	1,937	2,039
Deaths	31	32

BLINKEN TO MEET PM TODAY

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who arrived in India on Tuesday, will hold talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and meet National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. He is also scheduled to call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, before leaving for Kuwait.

IMF CUTS INDIA'S GDP GROWTH FORECAST

ANURADHA SHUKLA @ New Delhi

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cut India's economic growth forecast by three percentage points to 9.5% for the current fiscal from its earlier projection of 12.5%, citing "lack of access to vaccines" and chances of a third Covid wave.

"Growth prospects in India have been downgraded following the severe second Covid wave during March–May and expected slow recovery in confidence from that setback," IMF said in the latest edition of its World Economic Outlook report, released on Tuesday.

For the next fiscal, however, the IMF has forecast an 8.5% growth for India, 160 basis points higher than its April forecast. The upward revision is mainly due to the low base of the previous year's growth forecast.

"Steady recovery is not assured anywhere so long as segments of the population remain susceptible to the virus and its mutations," the IMF said. It added "similar dynamics are at work in the ASEAN-5 group, consisting of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, where recent infection waves are causing a drag on activity".

The US is expected to register a 7% growth this year, a sharp reversal from last year's 3.5% drop and an upgrade from the 6.4% growth the IMF had forecast for 2021 back in April.

"Faster-than-expected vaccination rates and return to normalcy have led to upgrades, while lack of access to vaccines and renewed waves of Covid-19 cases in some countries, notably India, have led to downgrades," said Gita Gopinath, chief economist, IMF.

Global growth at 6%

IMF's global growth forecast for 2021 calendar year remained unchanged at 6% as upgrades in the developed world were offset by downgrades in countries that experienced renewed Covid waves, notably India

EXPRESS READ

Centre seeks extension till Jan 9 for framing CAA rules

New Delhi: The Centre has sought extension till January 9 for framing rules of the Citizenship Amendment Act, which was passed by Parliament in 2019, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai informed Lok Sabha on Tuesday, replying to a question from Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi. P10

Assam says commandos will man the Mizo border

Guwahati: A day after the bloody clash along the Assam-Mizoram border killed five Assam policemen and one civilian, the Assam government on Tuesday announced its plan to deploy 4,000 commandos to man the border. "We are raising three battalions," CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said. P10

Rakesh Asthana becomes new Delhi Police chief

New Delhi: Former CBI official Rakesh Asthana has been appointed Delhi Police Commissioner. Asthana, who was special director in the CBI in 2017, was removed in 2018 and was made the chief of the Border Security Force. He will now get a one-year tenure as Delhi police chief.

Fresh to home
WEDNESDAY MARKET
Another Wednesday. Another meaty mid-week sale!
Fresh Products | Best Deals | 90 Min Delivery
Goat (Curry cut) ₹750/kg
Chicken (Curry cut) ₹228/kg
Baasa Fillet (Boneless) ₹450/kg
Mathi ₹298/kg
Chicken Malai Tikka ₹225/350g
Butter Chicken ₹225/450g
*Ready-to-cook. GST applicable.
2000+ Products
20 Lakh+ Customers
100+ Quality Checks
No Antibiotic Residue
No Added Chemicals
Order online at: Freshtohome.com
90 Minute Delivery
T&C Apply. All prices except for Chicken Malai Tikka and Butter Chicken are inclusive of taxes. Offers valid only for today and till stocks last. Images used are for representative purposes only and may differ from the actual products.